

Mr. Rogers, the vice chairman who was a deputy assistant to the first President Bush and an executive assistant to the White House chief of staff, is also vice chairman of Barbour Griffith & Rogers, one of the best-connected Republican lobbying firms in the capital. Mr. Rogers founded it in 1991 with Haley Barbour, who became chairman of the Republican National Committee and is now running for governor of Mississippi.

Shortly after leaving the White House, Mr. Rogers was publicly rebuked by the first President Bush after he signed a \$600,000 contract to represent a Saudi, Sheik Kamal Adham, who was a main figure under scrutiny in a case that involved the Bank of Commerce and Credit International. Mr. Rogers canceled his contract to represent the sheik, former head of Saudi intelligence.

Mr. Griffith, a director of the new company, is chief operating officer of Barbour Griffith & Rogers, which he joined in 1993. He was special assistant for intergovernmental affairs to the first President Bush and later worked under him as an assistant secretary of education.

Until November, Mr. Rogers' wife, Edwina, was associate director of the National Economic Council at the White House. Reached by telephone today, Mr. Rogers said he did not want to speak for the record and referred a reporter to Mr. Howland.

The company Web site says the company was "created specifically with the aim of assisting clients to evaluate and take advantage of business opportunities in the Middle East following the conclusion of the U.S.-led war in Iraq."

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE IRAQI WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, about 160 years ago, Congressman and former President John Quincy Adams came to the House floor night after night, week after week to read letters from constituents, most of them women who did not have the right to vote in those days. He was protesting the decision by the conservative leadership of the House of Representatives, a decision which banned the discussion and debate of slavery on the House floor in those days. Because they had banned the discussion of slavery, Congressman JOHN Quincy Adams thought he should share letters from his constituents with Members of the House, with the American people.

Similarly, because Congress has not debated so many of the issues sur-

rounding Iraq, the question of weapons of mass destruction, the question of some of the things that the administration said that they might have misled the people of the United States, discussions about how the \$87 billion is going to be spent that the President has asked for, discussions of the hundreds of millions of dollars every week that we are now spending in Iraq, where there is no accountability for the private, unbid contracts, many of which are going to the President's friends, several of those contracts to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars going to a company called Halliburton, unbid contracts, hundreds of millions of dollars every month. Halliburton is a company that is paying the Vice President of the United States \$13,000 every month, a company where he was CEO.

Madam Speaker, I am going to read some of these letters, as John Quincy Adams did 160 years ago, allowing people in my district to speak about these issues that conservative House leadership will not let us talk about.

Madam Speaker, from Greg from Brunswick, Ohio said, "The U.S. occupation of Iraq now costs \$1 billion a week, as much as the Federal Government spends on after school programs for the entire year. Those are just military costs, not including any money for rebuilding Iraq. No weapons of mass destruction have been found." Greg writes, "Nor have we seen any evidence of an active weapons development program, and there is no exit strategy. The administration has yet to present a realistic plan for how the occupation of Iraq will end."

Lucy of Copley, Ohio, writes, "There is more than one issue that must be addressed. I am very concerned that much of the money will be turned over to President Bush's business cronies for lucrative private contracts." She is talking about Halliburton and literally the hundreds of millions of dollars of contracts they have gotten, \$13,000 every month that goes to the Vice President of the United States from that company.

"I have no absolutely no doubt that this will happen unless Congress puts some constraints on the administration. Please give a great deal of thought into all of the issues before handing Mr. Bush everything he wants, including that blank check."

Kenneth of Richfield, Ohio, writes, "I believe the President and his senior administration officials have misled the American people to pursue an agenda which they do not discuss in the election campaign and which is dangerous to world peace."

Jerlene of North Royalton, Ohio, writes, "President Bush seems to have had no real plan for what the United States would do in Iraq once we took over that country. Giving him \$87 billion is not going to get a feasible plan on the table any faster." She talks about how we are paying a billion dollars a week now in Iraq, much of that going to unbid contracts, much of that

money unaccounted for, yet, already having spent \$70 billion the President is asking for \$87 billion more. She cautions us to exercise caution about that money that the President is asking this Congress for.

She also mentions that this money is going to be borrowed from our children and grandchildren because it means more national debt to the United States.

Matthew of Akron, Ohio, writes, "Too much of taxpayers' money has been squandered on this war already. It is time to hold George Bush accountable. By granting him this request, the American people, through Congress, are doing him a huge favor, and I might add, doing the American people something much less than a big favor."

All of these letters say, we want to have questions answered. We want the safety of our troops assured. We want to make sure that our troops are supplied better than they have been as these private contractors have squandered billions of taxpayer dollars. We want accountability. We want a plan of reconstruction the American people and the Congress can understand. And we not only want that accountability, we want an exit strategy on how, in fact, when this is going to end, and how this is going to be done.

Madam Speaker, I will continue, as I have since July, to share letters from constituents on issues this Congress will not debate on answering these questions that the American people have of their elected officials.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FURTHER FUNDING THE WAR IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, over the next couple of weeks, we will vote on a huge \$87 billion supplemental appropriations bill to further fund the war in Iraq.

Madam Speaker, this is a very serious piece of legislation. It is the largest supplemental appropriations bill in our Nation's history.

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While it is critically important that we get our military troops all the resources they need, I do not support rubber-stamping this legislation so this administration gets a free ride from Congress and does not have to account for its strategy in Iraq. Tough questions need to be asked.

Madam Speaker, how could the Bush administration underestimate so badly

the cost of the war? Bush administration officials either dramatically underestimated the costs or were misrepresenting their estimates to Congress before the war. Before being forced out of the Bush administration, Secretary of Treasury Larry Lindsey estimated the cost of the war would be between 100 and \$200 billion, but other officials in the administration scoffed at that estimate, saying it would be a lot less. In fact, OMB Director Mitch Daniels estimated the cost at as little as \$50 billion.

If we combine the military costs in the first supplemental and the \$65 billion included in this latest supplemental, we get \$132 billion, \$132 billion, much higher than the estimates, obviously, from the Bush administration.

Just one week after the war began, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz told the House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Defense, "We're dealing with a country that can really finance its own reconstruction, and relatively soon."

Yet the Bush administration comes to Congress requesting \$20 billion for reconstruction costs in Iraq. Was the administration bending the truth 6 months ago?

Madam Speaker, the American people are skeptical about these reconstruction funds. We really cannot blame them. In five of the largest areas of reconstruction, we will be spending considerably more money per capita in Iraq than we spend on our own people here at home.

The Bush administration proposal calls for \$3.7 billion to fund repairs and improvements to water and sewage services in Iraq, a great funding proposal from an administration that is certainly no friend of environmental policies here at home. In fact, the administration called for a 25 percent cut in the number of EPA clean-water sewage treatment grants over the past year here in the United States.

Madam Speaker, the Iraq supplemental calls for \$900 million to construct, repair, and equip hospitals in Iraq, 10 times as much per person as we are spending on repairing and constructing our own hospitals, clinics, veterans medical facilities, and U.S. military medical facilities.

Months after the largest power blackout in our Nation's history, the Iraq supplemental calls for \$6 billion to rehabilitate the electric power infrastructure of Iraq at a per capita cost of \$250.32. Here in the United States we do not even spend a single dollar to upgrade our electrical grid.

Madam Speaker, we all understand that Iraq must be rebuilt, but does this Nation have to bear the brunt of the costs? Tough questions must be answered by this administration over the next couple of weeks, and I only hope that they are more forthcoming than they have been in the past.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from

Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE GOLD-PLATING AND WAR PROFITEERING CONTINUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I brought something here tonight to show to the American people. This document, which has become publicly available, is the coalition provisional authority request to rehabilitate and reconstruct Baghdad, Iraq. Published accordingly, Baghdad, Iraq, is a gold-plated guide to war profiteering. I urge each and every tax-paying American citizen to get a copy to see where the \$20.3 billion that President Bush wants to borrow in their name to send to Iraq will be spent.

We have already had some examples of just incredible waste. There was a cement plant in northern Iraq needed repair. Mr. Bremer sent in his experts. They said it would cost \$15 million. The Iraqis could not wait, and they went ahead and repaired it for \$80,000.

There was the \$25 million spent to rebuild police stations in Basra. The Iraqis estimate they could have done it for \$5 million or less.

Then there was the \$5,000-per-day contract Mr. Bremer signed to feed the Iraqi governing council, all 25 of them. I guess we were going to fly over catered meals from the United States of America. The governing council was so appalled at that waste of money, even though it was being spent by the United States of America, borrowed by the President on behalf of the American people, they cancelled the contract, got some local food for a fraction of the cost.

Then, of course, on the governing council, we have Mr. Ahmad Al-Barak, and he estimates that in cases the savings could be a factor of 10. Where they spend \$1 billion, we would spend \$100 billion. If we carry that formula through, instead of borrowing \$20.3 billion on behalf of the American people and spending it to rebuild Iraq, as the President wants to do, we could do it for \$2.3 billion or less.

There are other things in this new proposal that are a bit strange. There is the proposal of \$33,000 per pickup truck delivered in Iraq. I went online just to kind of check out a pretty nice 2003 new Ford F-150, two door regular cab, XL, two-wheel drive, style side, with the AC and the automatic transmission and of course destination charge, \$17,817. Does not have armor plating, but then again neither do the Humvees that this administration gave to our troops who are being killed on a daily basis.

There are other things that I would question here, \$20 million to develop

and train a cadre of business people in Iraq. That is a 4-week course, \$10,000 each. By equivalent it would cost \$4,000 to send them to Harvard, or if we send them to a continuing-education course at a community college in my district, we could put them through a good course, one term, with credits, for \$400. But the Bush administration wants to spend \$10,000 per Iraqi, \$20 million borrowed from the American people, spent to give these \$10,000 4-week courses to Iraqis.

Then, of course, there is a lot of, like, well, we have an obligation to all the damage we did to the country. I guess we blew up their wireless Internet network. Whoops, wait a minute. They did not have wireless Internet network, did they? No, they did not, but an essential part of this reconstruction effort is that we provide a wireless Internet network for all the Iraqis and their laptop computers. I do not know how many Iraqis have laptop computers, but I think that is somewhere else in the request perhaps. Although we cannot equip our kids, our schools with laptop computers, we are going to give them to Iraqis.

There are other things that have more merit arguably, \$5.8 billion to rebuild their power grid and electrical system. I thought, well, maybe we did that. I found out it was not necessarily for damage we caused. In fact, Mr. Bremer was quoted saying, well, I have been into the plants, they have got these boilers from the 1950s and 1960s; they are holding them together with duct tape. What does that have to do with the war? What obligation does that put on the American people? Why should we borrow money on behalf of the American people, though it will be repaid and there is a lot of talk about children and grandchildren, by tax paying Americans today, children and grandchildren of tax paying Americans, to give the Iraqis state-of-the-art cycled turbines to generate electricity in Iraq? They cannot use the old system; we cannot just put that back together for a fraction of cost. No, they have got to have a brand new system. Of course, here in the United States of America where lights blinked out in the West a few years ago, blinked out in the East this year, the President cannot find any money to invest in our system and keep our lights on, but we can give them a state-of-the-art system there in Iraq.

If we spent this \$20.3 billion on infrastructure and critical needs in the United States of America. Even if we borrowed it on behalf of the American people and spent it on behalf of the American people, we could provide 1 million jobs in this country. This provides for nothing but war profiteering to generous contributors to the Bush administration.